

N•E•X•U•S



Nexus

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Statement of Purpose

Nexus , the Selwyn House School newspaper, serves three main purposes: it is an open outlet for student and staff opinions, ideas, and creativity; it is a medium through which current events relevant to the school may be made known; and finally it is - or should be - a breath of fresh air in the sometimes boring, always hectic school days of every Selwyn Boy.

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EDITORIAL

The History of Nexus

In comparison with other schools, Selwyn House is widely considered strict. Believe it or not, Selwyn has been modernizing its rules in leaps and bounds throughout the past couple of years. Before this quiet revolution, however, was a time of "Expressions urgency." This was no place for a student to give his view of things happening in and around school. At this point, our valiant leader, Mustapha Dowd, stepped in and offered to supervise a group of students interested in creating a school newspaper, which would serve as a link, hence the name *Nexus*, between the students. *Nexus* over the years has grown to be a permanent fixture in Selwyn House. It has of lately, however, been taken for granted, and this is why a reminder to students is in order.

Nexus is not just a bunch of papers stapled together with printed dribble in the middle. It is more. In truth, *Nexus* is a place where we go to stand up for our rights as individuals and to serve as an escape from our high-pressured school environment. In this sense, it is needed. It is understandable to laugh at announcements at lunch that seem futile, but if *Nexus* was ever abolished Selwyn would have a large void where its literature is supposed to be. The staff and editors are **not** involved with the publication for recognition of merit or to be part of something. We do because we care about freedom, rights, and expression. It wouldn't be so terrible if all of you non-believers would let down your guard and stopped being worried of what your friends thought and expressed yourselves as well.

Nexus has largely been responsible for rule moderation and good ideas that have come out. Our school teachers have no way of hearing our problems if we do not communicate. This is a good way to get them

all together without use of a meeting or confrontation, and it doesn't waste your time. By sitting around and insulting, however, you're wasting plenty.

Rob Worsoff

ESSAYS

The Cynic's Corner - This issue's focus: Social Awareness

Saving the world or at least trying to has become a popular thing at Selwyn House. New to the school this year is the environmental board located just outside the English office. Its purpose is to promote environmental awareness among the students and faculty. On the weekend of February 22 & 23, several Selwyn House boys took part in the Thirty Hour Famine designed to raise money to assist starving people in third world nations. And last and not least, unfortunately, it appears that the Selwyn House chapter of Amnesty International did not die off as the result of Michael Echenberg's graduation. Some pinko-commie, left-wing Marxist feminist, green loving, tree hugging pansy has taken up the cause. To all those people involved in the aforementioned items, I have but one thing to say **Join the real world!!!!!!!** it is about time you faced reality. To the student's council who were responsible for the installation of the environment board, not only is the idea stupid but it will also never work. As a general rule, young people are the most environmentally aware group of people on the planet. To try and convince them that there is a problem is a pointless waste of time. They already know about the problem. The only ones who don't are stupid idiots like the federal government. Those are the people you should be trying to convince. Secondly, even if they were ignorant of the problem, educating

them would accomplish nothing. The reason is simple. Teenagers do not possess the financial clout necessary to bring about change in our society. The ones who do are the parents of the students along with the remainder of the middle class. The excessively poor lack the financial resources, and the excessively rich just don't give a damn. Granted, they deserve a minute amount of credit to bring about change, even the board pathetic and misguided. Nonetheless, I say scrap the damn board and do something constructive instead of wasting time and energy on it.

To those Selwyn House students that took part in the Thirty Hour Famine, your conduct was morally reprehensible and if there was any justice in this nation you would all be forced to watch 120 hours of Who's the Boss reruns (non-stop). It was also naive and like the efforts of the student's council, it was pointless. The recession has resulted in a significant decrease in the amount of money collected by charities. The million and a half unemployed, the homeless, and the destitute, are getting less money. People are experiencing severe poverty and starvation in this country, and what is your solution, you big bunch of bozos? (Mr. Shannon, does this use of alliteration make me a better student?!?) Your solution is to take money from the pockets of Canadians and not give it to Canadians who need but rather to a bunch of people thousands of miles away. How dare you!!!!!! What you should have done is raise money to assist the poor and starving in Canada. Seeing as there is only a finite amount of resources with which to help people, that money must first be used to help Canadians. Whatever else remains after we have taken care of our own problems should then, not before, be used to help those in other countries. As well, do you honestly think any of that money will ever reach the people you hoped it would? Of course it won't!!! That money will end up in the pocket of some bureaucrat in the organization or in his vacation fund, or it will be used to buy him/her a new Mercedes. You people are so naive, it makes me sick.

To the miserable misguided (nice use of alliteration, eh Mr. Shannon?) sap who has continued the Amnesty International chapter, what the hell do you think you're going to accomplish? I can't believe that you think you're going to make a difference. I'll bet that you're a communist, right. Writing letters will never help anyone. Why, you may ask? Because foreign governments have no reason to listen to you. If you were exerting some sort of financial pressure on them through sanctions, then maybe, just maybe, you will accomplish something. But by writing letters, you ain't going to accomplish nothing.

If any of you socialist slime balls (three uses of alliteration in the same essay has to make me a better student sir) are offended by this article, then I'm glad. That was the point. If you wish to respond, then by all means go ahead, I could use a good laugh.

Andrew Taylor

Enough is enough

It seems that every other day, another movement is causing turmoil and meaningless complications in our daily lives. A few days ago we were threatened by the possible demonstration by a certain organization (I know not what) and were forced to employ "guards" and also to close off some school entrances at our own expense and inconvenience. And was it not this same day that a certain car wash advertisement was banned by the wish of a teacher (the association may not seem apparent just yet, but read on!) Sexism was the basis of the professor's (sic) complaints, and a weighty point it was. The point was that you need not portray a picture of some half naked, healthy young and ripe model to bring business to the general cause of the flyer. It was sexist, and therefore unjust. But, hasn't the advertisement already gained adequate attention and indirectly, its cause justified? And it was not only one sex's body which was so-called "exploited", but there was in fact,

another flyer which exhibited the same kind of material of the opposite sex. These flyers were accepted and well received by other schools, and no print of sexism was ever brought, at least to my knowledge. [There was also a reconstructed flyer which had the silhouetted bodies of both sexes, and served no new purpose but to offend both sexes at once] My only questions are, "Would the flyers have been equally snubbed if they were portrayed pictures of people that look like they're on the right, rather than their on the left?" I really do doubt so, but most of all "Would any harm have been done if the flyers were able to circulate" once again? Not likely, for it was only the individual in a society of hundreds who complained. Or were there others, who for some strange reason did not wish to make noise on this subject, or simply found no reason to inflict turmoil and confusion on us, the Selwyn House students.

Maze Muchiri

Advisor's Note: Smell the coffee, Tom. Your prose and thinking are muddy.

Some Petal, Some Bough

I met a beggar woman at the Vendome Metro station this week, or rather she met me as I climbed the stairs from the trains. I'd seen her before in the mornings with her hand out and knew what to expect, but was surprised at the speed with which she scuttled sideways to block my progress. Her technique was not to block my way entirely, but to cause me to alter my path, my straight line to the doors and fresh air. She succeeded then, and the episode remains with me still. What should I have done? A dollar or two in her hand? Suggest breakfast at Murray's? Move on mutely? I chose the last, but know that whatever I had done, it would not have seemed enough. Who are these people. anyway?

Increasingly they are we. Rupert Murdoch dove off his yacht, but more often the less wealthy drop from different perches into

the Metro or onto the streets. The recession without end is upon us, and fewer of us will be able to sustain lifestyles similar to those we now enjoy. Resort holidays and dinners out are palliatives to the inevitable recognition that the budget doesn't balance—personally, federally, globally.

More and more the hand is going out to us who have: ex-Soviets, Centraide, the panhandler, the failing businesses and banks need a bigger slice. What we have to give, though, has diminished, and more of us may have little to spare sooner than later. As "developing" nations increasingly provide cheap labour and cheaper goods, we'll continue to see the readjustment—there's a nice word for it—in the North American work force, with lay-offs and bankruptcies creating new Flints (see Roger and Me, a documentary about Flint, Michigan, and its fall from being the centre of GM's American manufacturing to its present satellite status). Montréal, to speak close to home, already has the highest unemployment rate of any major North American city, and our local economy shows signs of worse yet to come. Almost 25% of Montréal's citizens now live under the "poverty line." Yet we're still better off than most people in the world, and economic refugees will continue to look to us for visas, handouts, help.

As Gwynne Dyer pointed out to us last year, the "have not" nations are clambering for a piece of the economic action, regardless of the outcomes. We can share our prosperity with them, or they can take it from us. If this might happen on a national scale, then how different must our attitude be to those around us with their hands out? What will we do when our own hands are out, and people shuffle by without looking up?

Geoffrey Dowd

athletic entertainment.

Zoro Valdmanis

Priorities

When I heard about the recent hockey strike I was not only deeply injured by the delay by a long standing Canadian tradition, but I was also affronted by the stunning, child-like greed of these adults that have evidently lost all touch with reality. They have comfortable and luxurious lives in return for doing a job that consists solely of chasing a little black puck across a rink. This is clearly an occupation that lacks social productivity and it by no means justifies a salary of even half their current pay.

What I've observed above pays no regard to our ailing nation, a nation that possess an uncountable number of problems including poverty, starvation, and several other realities that could be remedied financially. It seems, however, that these real problems are ignored. The factory worker's cry for help goes unheard by authority as s/he works a fifty hour week at minimal wage somewhere in the mid-west. The homeless in our inner-cities go ignored by passers-by who claim nonchalantly that it's not their problem. And yet, when it comes to theses already spoiled hockey players, the management and the media make a huge deal out of it as the strikers haggle hungrily over hundreds of thousands of dollars. Someone, somewhere, needs a tune up on his priorities.

What is the attraction to sports that places it so high above the well-being of a fellow human? There is none the cause is that our society has been led into Utopian pastures where reporters with deep, well-modulated voices manage to fuse genocidal car bombings synonymously with the weather predictions into a speedy information frenzy. What results is a lack of understanding and an infatuation with the superficial. Perhaps one day, there will come a more enlightened generation that correctly discerns between the importance of our working class and the transparency of

Mayor Doré's Windows cost \$300 000

I read recently that the mayor of Montreal, Mr Jean Doré, spent three hundred thousand dollars for the renovation of his office windows. This particular city hall window was in bad shape before specially trained architects like Gerard Smolak and master artisans like Eric d'Urgern Sternberg and Alain Price came along. The mayor went to great lengths to give the effect of an antique window. A few tons of limestone were required from a quarry in the Eastern Townships simply to make the surround of the window. This and a few extras ran up the huge bill.

Paraphrase

"It is completely unacceptable for the provincial government to reduce the aid given to the municipalities, including Montréal." Of course it is; there are many more windows left.

300 Montréalers paid

On average a house in Montréal is valued at \$100 000. Therefore the average municipal tax payed by a household in Montréal is at least \$1000. It follows then that three hundred families made contributions to renovate the mayor's window. I bet the mayor doesn't want to tell them where their money went. As well, this leads one to think about where the rest of the taxpayers' money goes, not only in Montréal, but in other cities too.

Ali Dibadj

Rape and Blame

"Her clothing indicated to me a desire to engage in sexual activity." "She was just looking for trouble, going to his apartment at that hour."

Such comments, while displaying a blatant ignorance for women's rights and their role in today's world, are (sadly) still heard in courtrooms across North America. That so many rapists escape conviction because of such illogical arguments is proof that our justice system needs revision. Many men and women suggest that the only way a woman can avoid rape is by trying to appear unappealing to men. This repellant notion, that men are savages powerless to control their urges and that women are the temptresses, continues to affect the decisions made by the law. Placing the blame on the woman is never acceptable, for rape is a man's doing.

Women should be able to walk whenever it pleases them, without a bodyguard. They should be able to wear whatever they choose. Women will remain virtual prisoners in their own country, condemned to a life filled with fear and suspicion, unless we all realize that sexual assault is the fault of the man, that rapists are sick people, and that the sole bearer of guilt should be the rapist. Until then, women who have been sexually assaulted will be serving the longest term of all, blamed for something they could not control, looked upon by their peers as promiscuous, afraid to leave the house.

As well as being unjust, such arguments are illogical. If the sexuality was taken out of rape and it became simply a crime of violence, nothing more, such testimony from the accused would be struck down with laughter and mockery. Yet because it is rape, a crime few can understand, such arguments survive the battering of the defence and win acquittals.

Rapists are the only ones who should be blamed. Why they rape is a deeper problem involving the background and upbringing of

the rapist. Rape has been cited as a desperate, pathetic attempt to rise up by men who lack power in the workplace or who are looked down upon by their fellows. It is a crime motivated by a hunger for power and a desire to be a conqueror of the weak. Rapists seldom know that they have done anything wrong - thus the outlandish defence: her clothing or teasing manner was provocative. If she hadn't wanted sex, she shouldn't have come to my apartment. Etc... Why? Many men simply do not know that they did anything wrong. They may have seen their own mothers being beaten or degraded as youths. They may have acquired the attitude in jocular conversations in the pool room, or been misled by the exploitation of female sexuality in the media and in strip clubs across the continent. The ideas merge in his mind, and slowly he begins to believe that as a man, he has a right to any woman. He stops seeing the woman as a respectable, equal member of the community and instead sees her as a plaything, an anatomical rather than intellectual being. He sees rape as the right of man to use a woman for pleasure and discard them once boredom sets in, to find another.

Where, then, do some women get their ideas? Some have given up on the possibility of being on equal ground with men. They view rape as a result of female provocation - possibly due to a childhood of sexual abuse or memories of a father hitting her mother and telling her that it was her fault. The mind of a child gradually forms ideas about the world around her. If she sees women being treated badly, she comes to accept that part of her life as a woman involves abuse.

The idea that women are to blame originated gradually, through years of degradation, through thousands of pages of pornography, through male resentment at the woman's place in the workplace. Until rapists and sexual assaulters, wife beaters and child abusers are jailed, justice will not be served.

As a society, we must make an effort to eradicate the sources of sexism and thus bring an end to the riddling of a woman's mind with

guilt, and, finally, an end to the most heinous crime, rape. When a woman is raped, why can we not take her word? Why do we search for every possible flaw in the argument? Why do we look for an inconsistency in her testimony? The rapist can get away with his crime by blaming some aspect of the woman's behaviour - as if he could not stop himself. When the rapist does this, he turns the case around, putting the woman on trial. Questions shoot from the lawyer of the accused, demanding to know why she chose to wear such a tight fitting top, or why she exposed so much of her leg. These are irrelevant. The rationalization of the defence by bystanders just shows how bad the situation is.

When a woman's credibility is put in doubt it strikes an unbelievably sharp blow on the woman's already shaky self-confidence. The strength it would take to admit to the public that she had been sexually violated, the taboo that still exists that she would have had to face, both are of enormous psychological proportions. The case is turned around and she is blamed. The result is crushing disappointment; shame; guilt; all terrible by themselves, all magnified in the media spotlight that seems to surround all rape cases. It destroys her life and makes it impossible to rebuild.

The solutions to rape and the abuse of women are difficult to apply in a world still run by many sexists. We must screen the medias for sexist remarks - anything short of censorship. We must discredit and speak out against those who seek to exploit the sexuality of women. We must give stricter sentences to rapists. Authorities must use a harder hand in dealing with conjugal violence. Finally, we must commit ourselves to the idea that men and women are equal; that men have no personal power over women. If these steps are taken, then maybe women will be able to walk the streets at any hour in any type of clothing they wish without receiving so much as an unwanted wolf whistle. And should rape continue to survive after this, let us hope that women are treated with respect and sympathy

rather than shunned and discredited. Rape is a crime done by rapists. The blame cannot be placed on anyone else.

Liam Maloney

CLASSIFIED

RACE BIKE FOR SALE!

Black, 12 speed, triple butted chromoly, Fuji (21 inch) race bike. Immaculate condition, just retuned. Extras include an Avocet 30 cyclocomputer, Greg Lemond clip-on bars and a Zefal frame pump, Suggested height 5'0" to 5'6". Price: \$250 without clip-on bars or speedometer, \$300 with everything.

Marcel Guay 481-4345

BMX Trick Bike for sale

I have a Haro Sport Freestyle bike, barely used, that I'm trying to sell. I purchased it a year and a half ago for about \$700, and I'm trying to get rid of it for \$350 (negotiable). So for hard-core BMX fans out there, don't miss this once in a lifetime opportunity to buy a trick bike. Comes with pegs on front wheel and on the back rotary breaks, a Diamond Back seat and pedals.

Dan Freiheit 931-9512

Mountain Bike for Sale!

Specialized Rockhopper Sport '91. Suntour X-1 components, Panaracer Smoke rear tire, Scott AT-4 Pro handlebars. In good condition. All serious off-roading amenities. Available with bars or without. Paid \$700. Asking \$515(or best offer).

Matthew Waxman 487-0551